GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1639
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2015
PMGSY
Kumar Shri Ashwini

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure laid down for construction of roads under PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana;

(b) the details of the competent authority to clear the projects.

(c) whether public representatives are involved in the Yojana;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the monitoring mechanism devised by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a)&(b) 'Rural Roads' is a State subject and PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) is a one-time special intervention to provide rural connectivity, by way of a single all-weather road, to the eligible unconnected habitations in the core network. Projects under PradhanMantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY) are executed by State Governments through the designated agencies i.e. State Rural Roads Development Agencies (SRRDAs) at the State level and Project Implementation Units (PIUs) at the district level. The programme envisages connecting all eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in plain areas and 250 persons and above (as per 2001 Census) in Special Category States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttrakhand), Tribal (Schedule-V) areas, the Desert Areas (as identified in Desert Development Programme) and in Selected Tribal and Backward Districts (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs/Planning Commission). The PMGSY permits upgradation (to prescribed standards) of existing rural roads in districts where all the eligible habitations of the designated population size have been provided all weather road connectivity. For most intensive IAP blocks as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the unconnected habitations with population 100 and above (as per 2001 census) are eligible to be covered under PMGSY.

Under PMGSY, the State Governments are required to submit Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the Ministry for consideration/approval of projects after due scrutiny at the level of State Technical Agencies (STAs) in accordance with PMGSY Guidelines. The scrutinized proposals are placed before the Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee (EC), constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development, after due technical scrutiny by National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) for consideration. The recommendations of the EC are made keeping in view the availability of funds, existing liability of ongoing works, execution absorption capacity of the States etc. The State Governments are required to communicate compliance on the observations of the Empowered Committee to the Ministry and seek a formal clearance of proposals. In case the proposals meet all the programme requirements, the proposals are formally cleared by the Ministry with the approval of the Minister of Rural Development.

(c)to(e) The PMGSY guidelines envisage a key role for the public representatives at various stages of implementation of the programme. Consultation with Members of Parliament is held at both the Core Network finalization and selection of roads during the finalization of annual proposals. In addition, at the stage of preparing DPRs, the DPIU conducts a transect walk along the proposed road alignment, involving the local panchayat functionaries. State Governments are required to arrange joint inspection of ongoing as well as completed works under PMGSY by Hon'ble MPs, Hon'ble MLAs and representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

The district level Vigilance & Monitoring Committees (VMCs) constituted under the chairmanship of Member of Parliament (LokSabha) elected from the District are required to monitor implementation of the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development including PMGSY. PMGSY Guidelines also provide the following arrangements for joint inspection of PMGSY projects by Public Representatives:

(i.) The Superintending Engineer concerned of the zone/region to request Hon"ble MP and ZillaPramukh representing that zone/region once in six months to select any PMGSY project(s) for joint inspection as per the convenience of the Hon"ble MP/ZillaPramukh.

(ii) The Executive Engineer in-charge of a division to request Hon"ble MLA/Chairperson of the Intermediate Panchayat concerned once in three months for joint inspection of any PMGSY project(s) as per the convenience of the MLA/Chairperson.

(iii) The Assistant Engineer in-charge of the sub-division to request the concerned Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat once in two months to select any PMGSY project(s) for joint inspection as per the convenience of the Sarpanch.

With regard to foundation laying and inauguration ceremonies of PMGSY road works, the guidelines provide the following:

i. All elected representatives associated with the programme are required to be invited to the foundation laying and inauguration ceremonies;

ii. The function to be held in a manner befitting official functions with due regard to protocol requirements, particularly in relation to Hon''ble Union Ministers from the States;

iii. The foundation stone for a PMGSY road is required to be laid and inaugurated by the Hon''ble Member of Parliament (LokSabha) with the function presided over by the local Hon''ble Minister or other dignitary as per the State protocol.

The programme guidelines stipulate that the quality of construction of road works under PMGSY is the responsibility of the State Governments who are implementing the programme. The States are also advised from time to time to ensure the compliance of the above mechanism through the Empowered Committee (EC) Meetings and Regional Review Meetings (RRMs).

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